

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT
SUBMITTED BY HERAN SEREKE-BRHAN, PhD
JUNE 27, 2022

* Agency Development*Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, Access*Improved Grantmaking* Community Engagement*CAH Beyond Grants*

The following is a summary of the agency's activities and operations:

Agency Development: Welcoming New Staff

CAH welcomes Denise Jackson as Human Resource Specialist.

2023 NEA Partnership Award

CAH has been approved for a \$861,200 National Endowment for the Arts Fiscal Year 2022 Partnership Agreement. These funds will support the arts in areas such as cultural tourism, community revitalization, economic development, and education.

Grants and Public Art

Applications have closed for the following programs:

Program	Closing Date	Submissions*
FY23 Arts or Humanities Education Projects	June 3, 2022	43
FY23 Field Trip Experiences	June 10, 2022	25
FY22 MuralsDC	May 26, 2022	24
FY23 Marion Barry, Jr. legacy Public Art Project	May 23, 2022	5
FY23 Projects, Events and Festivals (Ind.)	June 10, 2022	76
FY23 Projects, Events and Festivals (Orgs.)	June 10, 2022	48
FY22 Relief and Recovery Grant (Ind.)	June 17, 2022	343
FY22 Relief and Recovery Grant (Orgs.)	June 17, 2022	30

Applications are still open for the following programs:

Program	Closing Date	Submissions*
FY23 Art Bank	June 24, 2022	Forthcoming
FY23 Art Exhibition (Curatorial) Grant	July 8, 2022	Forthcoming
FY23 Arts and Humanities Fellowship Grant	July 8, 2022	Forthcoming
FY23 Public Art Building Communities	July 15, 2022	Forthcoming
FY23 East Arts (formerly East of the River)	July 15, 2022	Forthcoming

*Submissions refers to applications received and does not reflect eligible applications.

Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Access: *Create and Thrive!* Arts Learning Program

On May 19, 2022, CAH hosted a closing presentation at The Phillips Collection for its *Create and Thrive!* pilot program designed to provide professional development opportunities for nine local artists who were paired to create arts learning curricula and establish a new interdisciplinary residency program at local community centers. CAH partnered with the nonprofit Arts for the Aging to facilitate the training and the program was funded by a grant

award from the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies and Aroha Philanthropies’ “Leveraging State Investments in Creative Aging” grant award in October 2021.

Participating teaching artists and curricula themes were: Kenneth Dickerson and Davey Yarborough - The Gateway to Jazz is the Blues; Reggie Cabico - When I Opened the Door of Feelings: A Poetry Workshop; Charity Blackwell and Shaina Kuhn - Resonate! Poetry and Voice; Margot Greenlee and Naoko Wowsugi - Bring a Thing: Reconnect with Your Memorabilia; and Joy Jones and Nephelie Andonyadis - Toy Stories: A Series of Storytelling, Poetry and Movement Practices.

Partnering community centers were: Genevieve N. Johnson Senior Center (Ward 4); Kingdom Care Senior Village (Ward 8); The Iona Washington Home Center (Ward 8); and East of the River Regional Socialization Hub (Ward 8). A total of 193 people participated in the three-day residencies and several teaching artists have since joined the faculty of Arts for the Aging. Given the positive response of community participants, teaching artists, and partner organizations, CAH plans to sustain the program in FY2023, thereby building a new pathway of inclusion for older adults in arts learning.

Community Engagement: Shaw Women’s Empowerment Murals Dedication

On June 4, 2022 ED Sereke-Brhan attended and shared remarks at the Shaw Women’s Empowerment Murals dedication for two works, ‘She Got We’ by artist Cita Sadeli MISS CHE LOVE at Rhode Island Avenue and 7th Street, NW and ‘Together’ by artists Nia Ketura Calhoun, Maggie O’Neill and Lisa Marie Thalhammer on 1309 9th Street NW. Present at the dedication were Commissioner Gretchen Wharton, Councilmember Brooke Pinto (Ward 2); and Kristi C. Whitfield, Director, Department of Small and Local Business Development. The event was hosted by Alexander M. Padro, Executive Director, Shaw Main Streets and about 30 participants attended.

Business of the Arts | CAH in the Community | Artists’ Showcase

In accordance with the Commission’s focus on community outreach, CAH launched virtual and in-person public programs on three tracks – Business of the Arts, CAH in the Community and Artists’ Showcase in January 2021. In FY22, CAH has offered twelve programs: five sessions in Business of the Arts focused on copyright, business registration and entrepreneurial avenues for artists to explore; four sessions featuring CAH programs and processes such as grants compliance, panels, and incorporating IDEA values in arts education in CAH in the Community; and three sessions on mentorship in the arts and artists’ responses to climate justice in Artists’ Showcase. There are two remaining programs scheduled to take place in June and July 2022 and around 744 participants have attended the sessions thus far.

CAH Beyond Grants: Americans for the Arts Annual Convention

On May 19, 2022, ED Sereke-Brhan shared welcome remarks at the opening session of the Americans for the Arts Annual Convention which took place at the Omni Shoreham Hotel in Washington, DC. Other speakers included Congresswoman Teresa Leger Fernandez, Representative (D-New Mexico), U.S. House of Representatives (pre-recorded remarks); Nolen V. Bivens, President and CEO, Americans for the Arts, Debra Garcia Y Griego, Cabinet Secretary New Mexico Department of Cultural Affairs; and Andrea Noble, Executive Director,

Alaska State Council on the Arts. Author, biographer, playwright and columnist R. Eric Thomas delivered the opening keynote and the morning kicked off with a rousing performance by D.C.'s own Crush Funk Brass.

Ten CAH staff members attended the convention as a professional development opportunity to learn about national trends and developments in the arts and cultural sector and network among peers and thought leaders from around the country.

International Visitor Leadership Program: Engaging Youth through Performing Arts

On June 7, 2022, CAH hosted eight participants, program staff and interpreters from the U.S. Department of State's International Visitor Leadership Program arranged by World Learning and themed 'Engaging Youth through Performing Arts: A Regional Project for the Near East and North Africa.' Among the objectives of the program were exploring how the arts had the power and potential to shape contemporary values and build civil society, the importance of arts education to teach societal leadership skills, and how artists raise social awareness through their work. The eight participants were Islam Mohamed Omar Ahmed (Deputy Editor and Founder of Arts and Culture Section, Al-Ahram Online; Doaa Ibrahim Ali Sarhan, Projects Manager, AFCA Arts Center-EG for Arts and Culture; Mayer Magdi Wadie Yassa, Consultant and Theatre Instructor, CARE Egypt Foundation (CEF); Rania Abu Irqaik, Actress and Goodwill Ambassador; Nana dite Venvouna Bowbe Jidou, Artist and Social Activist; Mohammed El Bellaoui, Graffiti Artist and Graphic Designer, Rebel Spirit Studio; Barakat Abdulla I Alassiri, Content Director, New Life Production Company and Abduljaleel Abdulhafiz A. Shakir, Executive Producer and Show Creator, New Life Production Company. The visitors are from Egypt, Jordan, Mauritania, Morocco, and Saudi Arabia.

CAH staff members provided an overview of our Arts Education, Grants and Public Art programs, learned about the work of visiting artists, and shared ideas on sustaining support for artists and arts organizations in various ecosystems. Visitors were invited to a guided tour of our juried exhibition, *Fragile Beauty*, thereby witnessing the vast diversity and talent of the District's 33 visual artists currently on display at the CAH Gallery.

Agency Partnership: DC Public Library

As part of an ongoing partnership initiated by CAH, ED Sereke-Brhan attended the inaugural meeting of DC Public Library's Art Advisory Council on June 15, 2022. Hosted by former Commissioner Brian Williams, now a member DC Public Library's Board of Trustees the meeting discussion focused on how to make visual arts more accessible to residents through permanent and temporary exhibits and programming in the 25 neighborhood libraries throughout the District. Present at the meeting were a group of influential volunteers – community members, arts professionals, and representatives from partner arts organizations, The Phillips Collection and Glenstone.

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